

Surgery instruction initiative goes viral

Quinn Phillips

When Jonathan White came up with the idea to do surgery podcasts for University of Alberta medical students, he never imagined it would take off worldwide.



Jonathan White recording a podcast.

The idea was to record and post podcasts to give undergraduate medical education students a basic understanding of specific surgical processes. He wanted them to be easily accessible to students in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry so he put them on iTunes for free as "Surgery 101."

"I think, over the first year, we had approximately 95 or 100 students out of the 120 downloading the podcasts," said White, the director of undergraduate surgical education in the faculty. Something that surprised him, though, was how many non-student downloads were occurring.

After a year they had about 25,000 downloads and were finished their first 10 episodes. They decided to keep recording them and they've really picked up steam.

"If you look at the figures, it took us two-and-a-half years to get the first 100,000 downloads," said White. "With our figures at the moment, it's going to take us about nine months to get to 200,000."

They are now averaging between 400 and 600 downloads a day from 100 countries worldwide, including Taiwan, Australia, New Zealand and Turkey, with the biggest numbers coming from North America.

Continued on page 2

Running man



Tim Young makes his way through HUB Mall during one of the few times the Faculty of Law computer programmer isn't taking the stairs. Story page 7.

Renowned writer and artist named as Distinguished Artists

Folio staff

Two members of the University of Alberta community have been named recipients of this year's Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Distinguished Artist Awards.

Robert Kroetsch, a U of A alumnus and honorary degree recipient, and Jane Ash Poiras, an alumna as well as sessional instructor at the university, will be presented with the awards in St. Albert's new Enjoy Centre, as part of the city's 150th anniversary celebrations April 9.

The Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Distinguished Artist Awards celebrate excellence in, and underlines the importance of, the arts in Alberta. The awards recognize individual Albertans for outstanding achievement in the arts or for significant contribution to the arts in Alberta.

Poiras, who holds a bachelor of fine arts degree in printmaking,

as well as a degree in microbiology from the U of A, is an internationally acclaimed visual artist whose work has been showcased in numerous solo and group exhibitions around the world. She is a long-standing sessional instructor with the U of A's Faculty of Native Studies and a highly sought-after guest lecturer across North America.

As a child, she was told she'd never make a living as an artist and pursued her science degree. But while working as a clinical and industrial microbiologist, Poiras continued to work at her art in her spare time, taking evening courses at the U of A. She was ultimately persuaded by her instructor to present a portfolio of her work to the U of A's

Department of Art and Design.

"I am thrilled to receive this award, and humbled to be in the company of the other recipients who are so accomplished. I've travelled to the four corners of the planet, but

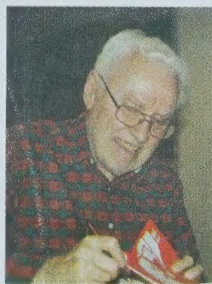
I'm always excited to come back to Alberta to my family, my people ... and my dogs," said Poiras.

Robert Kroetsch, renowned poet, novelist, essayist and teacher, is one of Canada's most accomplished authors. He earned a bachelor of arts degree from the U of A in 1948 and published his first novel, *But We Are Exiles*, in 1965. With a career spanning 40 years, Kroetsch has received numerous honours, including the prestigious Governor General's Literary Award for his book *The Studhorse Man*. He has penned nine interna-

tionally acclaimed novels, 12 books of poetry and five books of non-fiction, essays and exploration.

"I spent many years travelling around the world, but I never left Alberta," said Kroetsch. "It has always been a country of my imagination. I love the stories, the landscape and the people."

U of A faculty English professor Rudy Wiebe and professor emeritus Greg Hollingshead have previously received the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Distinguished Artist Awards. ■



Robert Kroetsch



Jane Ash Poiras

Tempting the nature of wolves

Story page 6



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Mountain pine beetle set for march east to Maritimes

Brian Murphy

A University of Alberta-led research team has determined that the mountain pine beetle has invaded jack pine forests in Alberta, opening up the possibility for an infestation stretching east across the Prairies all the way to the Atlantic.

A group of U of A tree biologists and geneticists discovered that, as the mountain pine beetle spread eastward from central British Columbia, it successfully jumped species from its main host, the lodgepole pine, to the jack pine.

U of A molecular ecologist Catherine Cullingham says that before the beetle adapted to the jack pine its first move was to a hybrid species, a cross between lodgepole and jack pine.

"Tracking the pine beetles progression and telling jack pine from the hybrid species took a lot of work," said Cullingham. "It was tricky, but our research team used molecular markers to conclusively show that the latest pine species to be attacked is indeed jack pine."

Research team member Janice Cooke says confirmation of the pine beetles' jump to another species is a real concern. "Jack pine is the dominant pine species in Canada's boreal forest," said Cooke. "Its range extends east from Alberta all the way to the Maritime provinces."

University researchers teamed up with Alberta Sustainable Resources Development and the Canadian Forest Service to track the progress of the mountain pine beetle infestation across the province. The insects have

been found in jack pines as far east in Alberta as Slave Lake, which is 200 kilometres north of Edmonton.

Mountain pine beetles are about the size of a grain of rice. The hard-shelled insects spread by flying and with the aid of wind currents. Researchers currently have no estimate for the speed at which the insect might continue to spread eastward.

"Discovering that the mountain pine beetle has spread into jack pine is an important finding," said Cooke. "Being able to provide forest managers and decision makers with this information in real time has been vital in the ongoing battle

against this devastating forest pest."

The research was published April 4 in the journal *Molecular Ecology*. ■



Research shows the mountain pine beetle has successfully jumped pine species. (Supplied photo)

Reverse engineering the economy

Jamie Hanlon

Imagine there was a way to engineer shorter and less painful economic recessions. Alberta School of Business professor Randall Morck thinks there may be. And he plans to use his recent Bank of Canada Fellowship to conduct that research.

Morck was named March 30 as one of two leading researchers receiving the bank's prestigious fellowship award, which is "designed to encourage leading-edge research and to develop expertise in Canada in a number of areas critical to the bank's mandate." The fellowship covers a period of five years for a maximum of \$450,000. Morck is the first University of Alberta recipient.

Much of Morck's previous research has delved into the efficiency of financial systems like banks, financial markets and business corporations and how they maximize the use of their investors' monies. Morck says that this type of research is likely what attracted the bank's attention.

As part of his fellowship, Morck, along with colleagues in the United States and Singapore, will examine the apparent domino effect caused by central bank policies and their influence on a country's economic performance. Through a reverse-engineering of macroeconomic policy decisions, Morck and his colleagues hope to better understand how and why they have such an impact on the economy. He believes that these analyses will be beneficial to Canada's economy—and likely world economies as well.

"The idea is to break macroeconomic policy down to identify its microeconomic effects, and then build those effects back up to understand economy-level outcomes," said Morck. "Intuitively, the idea is to understand what really happens on the ground when central bankers pull their monetary policy levers."

"Ultimately, this sort of research could lead to milder and shorter recessions."

Since 2003, the Bank of Canada has awarded 12 fellowships to researchers across Canada. ■

Wealthy diabetics have poorer diets

Bev Betkowski

Middle-class wage-earners who have Type 2 diabetes appear to be healthier eaters than their wealthier counterparts.

A new University of Alberta study that measured a link between diet quality and income for people with Type 2 diabetes found that those earning \$120,000 or more had lower-quality diets than patients earning between \$21,000 and \$60,000.

The study, which involved 49 Type 2 diabetes patients living in Edmonton, revealed that quality of diet—defined in terms of variety, adequacy and moderation—climbed steadily as household income grew, peaking at about the \$60,000 mark, said Denise Maxwell, of the Department of Rural Economy. Maxwell conducted the research as part of her master's degree.

As the salary level climbed beyond \$60,000 to \$120,000 and more, the quality of diet declined steadily to ultimately drop below that of people subsisting on \$21,000 incomes, Maxwell noted. As well, her study showed that people with the highest-quality diet scores spent less money on food. Analysis showed that an increase in household fruit and vegetable expenditures was associated with a rise in diet quality. The same expenditure on convenience meals, which are often high in fat, salt and/or sugar, resulted in a decrease in diet quality. The analysis also showed that higher diet quality was associated with a better control of blood sugar.

The findings were surprising, Maxwell said. "We know that people living on low incomes often struggle to find a balance between budget and good nutrition, but it isn't something that is normally associated with high incomes."

"However, our results suggest that Type 2 diabetes patients in higher-paying jobs spend more time at work. This may lead to convenience becoming more important than proper nutrition."

Both low-income and high-income earners face their own challenges, especially when dealing with diabetes, Maxwell added.

It appears that low-income earners appear to have budget constraints that may have them reaching for inexpensive processed foods, while those on high incomes grapple with lack of time to prepare wholesome meals, and rely on restaurant meals or pre-packaged processed meals instead. Many of these choices are high in fat, salt and/or sugar.

"Public health policies aimed at educating low-income diabetes patients in purchasing and preparing low-cost

nutritious foods, such as more affordable cuts of meat, may help to improve or maintain health status of these people," Maxwell noted.

As well, similar policies should exist for educating high-income patients who work long hours, outlining where and how to purchase, as well as how to prepare, time-saving diabetes-appropriate foods in order to improve their diets, she said.

The study was funded by the U of A's Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, the U of A Department of Rural Economy and Alberta Health Services, with additional funding from the University of Wisconsin – Madison Graduate School. ■

“Our results suggest that Type 2 diabetes patients in higher-paying jobs spend more time at work. This may lead to convenience becoming more important than proper nutrition.”

Denise Maxwell



Denise Maxwell found that money doesn't necessarily buy good health.

Surgery 101 beamed out to 100 countries

"We've done no promotion," said White, who admits he's shocked by the popularity. "We did a few workshops nationally and went down to Salt Lake City for a conference and gave a few talks on how to make a podcast."

Just a couple of months ago, White and his resident, who helped get things off the ground, expanded beyond general surgery topics. They set up a mobile podcasting team that visits the offices of faculty colleagues and helps them record a 10-minute podcast on various specialties, such as heart bypass surgery.

continued from page 1

"We got such a big response that we had enough material to produce one a week for six months," said White. "Since late October we've been publishing every single Friday."

And they show no sign of slowing down, says White. "For now it's been very content-based," he said. "We're about to get an orthopedic surgeon to do one and we haven't had any in thoracic or vascular surgery. I also want to get more residents involved even for things like 'why would you want to consider being a surgeon?' or 'what is it like to have a night on call?'" ■

Staff reductions last option in 2011-12 budget cuts

Folio staff

Provost Carl Amrhein and vice-president (finance) Phyllis Clark have provided an update on expected 2011-12 budget cuts.

The provost and vice-president (finance) confirmed that, based on current assumptions, all faculties and administrative units across the university "should expect an average of two per cent budget cuts for the 2011-12 year." This follows the recent Alberta budget that verified that the university will receive a zero per cent provincial operating grant increase for 2011-12.

"The bottom line is that, while the university's budget will not decrease, it will also not increase fast enough to keep pace with the cost of doing business," Amrhein said. "What that means will be different for each dean."

In a letter to deans, chairs and directors, Amrhein and Clark indicated that all units have been asked to begin developing budget scenarios based on the two per cent cut assumption. As is normal, deans, chairs and directors will be responsible for how cuts are made in their own areas.

Amrhein and Clark urged faculties and units to consider position reductions as the last resort. They went on to say that "talented people are without question the university's greatest asset," pointing out that it is difficult to rebuild following reductions in positions.

Each vice-president will also be expected to make a two per cent cut overall in their areas of responsibility.

"Please be reminded that budget reductions are by no means the only solution being pursued by the university in the face of resource pressures," Amrhein and Clark concluded in their letter to the deans. Further, citing significant "success with finding new administrative efficiencies over the past several years," they said the university "will continue to seek additional ways to achieve further efficiencies." ■

Phys ed and rec prof gets SALUTE from Students' Union

Jane Hurlly

Professor Brian Maraj is teaching students the concepts of skills acquisition and perfor-

mance. He has members of the "studio audience," as he calls his class when he wants volunteers, lined up one behind the other with instructions to touch, as rapidly as possible, four different spots of the back of the person in front of them.

There's anticipation and laughter in the air as the students try their best, but it's slow at first. When the students get the idea, Maraj turns the fun into a way to relate what the students have experienced and seen into a demystification of the complex laws of motor behaviour.

It's all part of engaging students in a rich learning experience and one that's earned Maraj a 2011 Students' Union SALUTE teaching excellence award.

"What's most humbling is that it came from the students," says Maraj, who understands all too well how busy

students are with their own lives, let alone making the time to nominate a teacher.

But the students have every reason to take the time. Last year, Maraj showed how far he'll go to show a student he



Brian Maraj

cares: he organized an all-day squash "Maraj-athon" and fundraiser in honour of student Terry Tenove, who had suffered a catastrophic spinal accident during a skating drill. "I wanted to do something I love (squash), for someone we love," says Maraj. His act of kindness raised more than \$4,000, all of which went to the Steadward Centre's activity programs for kids with disabilities in Tenove's name.

Does he have a teaching strategy? "No strategy; I just let it unfold," he says. "I do know that I love the things that I teach. I try as best as I can to demonstrate the concepts and mechanisms so that students understand them. If they can see and understand something, they'll find applications for it in a number of different

ways—maybe even well after they've completed their degrees."

Maraj also masterminded a laboratory research experience called KURT's—Kinesiology Undergraduate Research Teams—bringing some of his class's brightest sparks into his perceptual motor behaviour lab to work on a current research project together, or take on a new one. Maraj was awarded a McCalla Professorship on 2007 because of this innovative idea that integrates teaching and research—a key criterion of the award.

As part of one of these laboratory research experiences, students are supervised by Maraj or graduate students in the lab and he says it's a great learning opportunity for the students and for him. "Students learn data collection, equipment usage and ethics approval, and generally get a real taste for the research experience and a greater appreciation for what it takes to answer a particular research question.

"I learn a lot too," he says. "Undergraduates are a great source of different perspectives, energy, enthusiasm and ideas that really make you think. Their capacity for contribution is sometimes

"I do know that I love the things that I teach."

Brian Maraj

underestimated. I have always been very impressed with the level of undergraduate students that we've had here and I am so pleased that I get the opportunity to work with them, both in the lab and in the class."

The secret to his success as a teacher, he says, lies in caring deeply about the material he's teaching and teaching it with passion—and caring deeply about each student in the class. "I speak to one student like I'd speak to 100; I speak to 100 like I'd speak to one. I think that if someone in an audience feels as though you're speaking directly to them, that's a great step towards facilitating their understanding of something."

Maraj says he's found great students in his class year after year. "This is my 12th year at the U of A and I feel blessed that I've had the opportunity to work with such incredible students. I have never been disappointed." ■

Engineering prof leads pioneering carbon-research project

Jenna Hoff

Greenhouse gas emissions caused by the burning of coal are a complex global concern. In Canada alone there are approximately 50 coal-fired power plants, each producing roughly three million tons per year of carbon dioxide emissions.

However, a cutting-edge research team, led by mechanical engineering professor Sushanta Mitra, is starting a three-year study that could lead to new technologies that diminish or eliminate the need for burning coal, dramatically reducing the nation's global carbon footprint.

The multidisciplinary team includes biologists, geologists, geo-scientists and engineers from across Canada and will investigate the use of microbes to convert deep, non-mineable coal into gas or liquid fuels, or their fuel precursors.

While Mitra says the science behind this bioconversion is still in its infancy, it could break ground towards providing a greener alternative to conventional coal combustion processes.

"The challenge is that our under-

standing of the process is currently confounded by the complexity and variability of coal, the inaccessibility of many coal seams and their associated microbiota, and the lack of knowledge of basic biodegradation systematics and reactant transport in coal," said Mitra.

The team will study a process known as methanogenesis, in which microscopic organisms convert coal into methane and other products. They will determine what microbes are present in coal measures and analyze the components of coal constituents that can be broken down to produce fuel components.

The group will also study environmental conditions that inhibit or enhance this biodegradation, and the development of engineering methods and tools that optimize this process.

"Whether these microbial communities can be coaxed into producing far greater volumes of methane at much higher rates than currently is a multi-billion dollar question," said Mitra, adding that the project has the potential to lead to pre-commercialization technology that can be further developed for transfer to industry on both a national and international level.



Sushanta Mitra is starting a three-year study that could lead to new technologies, diminishing or eliminating the need for burning coal.

According to Mitra, the technology is applicable worldwide, and could greatly benefit Canada. If the research is utilized in large coal-consuming countries such as the United States, China and India, it could have a huge impact on cleaner energy production and emissions reduction. As well, given that only about five per cent of Alberta's coal-bed methane reserves are recoverable using state-of-the-art techniques, bioconversion provides an attractive alternative to produce fuel from this

resource. The export of the technology would also benefit Canada through licensing and intellectual property agreements.

The study is supported by a \$1.92 million grant from Carbon Management Canada, a national research network with the goal of driving net carbon emissions toward zero, as well as through \$150,000 in funding from Encana, an industry partner and leader in the successful exploration and development of unconventional natural gas production. ■

Are You a Winner?

Congratulations to Walter Boddez, whose name was drawn as part of folio's March 25 "Are You a Winner?" contest. Boddez correctly identified the photo in question as a cutaway engine display located on the second floor of the Mechanical Engineering Building. For his correct answer, Boddez has won a University of Alberta-issued stainless-steel coffee mug, as well as a U of A-embazoned bookmark.

Up for grabs this week is yet another U of A-issued stainless-steel coffee mug, as well as a U of A-embazoned bookmark. To win, simply email what building the photo is of and email your answer to folio@exr.ualberta.ca by noon on Friday, April 15, and you will be entered into the draw.



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Reproduction: Male & Female Infertility, Low-energy, Menopause S, Prostatitis, Dysmenorrhea, Menoxenia, etc....

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Skin: Server Eczema/Psoriasis; Alopecia, Hives, Shingles, etc....

Others: hemorrhoid, Diabetic-Gangrene, Raynaud's S, Rheumatism...
Etc....



Spring has sprung across the U of A's North Campus.

U of A showcased at major international finance summit in Calgary

Michael Ulrich

The University of Alberta had a significant presence at a major international event held in Calgary March 25–28. For four days, the Inter-American Development Bank held a series of meetings involving hundreds of high-level delegates, including ministers of finance, presidents of central banks, high-level authorities from IDB member countries and other representatives from development agencies and private banks.

President Indira Samarasekera was invited by the organizers to moderate one of the keynote panels, entitled “Developing Connections: Connecting the Unconnected.”

This panel featured speakers from Microsoft, the University of California – Berkeley, Korea Telecom and Telefónica Internacional USA, who discussed the rapid growth and adoption of information and communication technologies in several regions of the world, primarily Latin America. Discussion focused on the importance of understanding the nuances and requirements needed to utilize

information and communication technology as a tool for promoting both sustainable economic welfare and structural change through the empowerment of individuals and communities.

Samarasekera was also a panelist in a session hosted by Canadian Finance Minister Jim Flaherty. The aim of the session was to explore innovative ways for generating sustainable private sector development. She provided a brief look at the changes in university research, and research funding, in Canada over the last decade, explored the need for

some rethinking of partnerships between universities and the private sector, and offered some suggestions on what those partnerships could include.

In addition to Samarasekera's participation in these two panels, the U of A's School of Public Health hosted an event on the eve of the IDB meetings, bringing together a group of leading economists, development bankers and health policy-makers for a panel presentation at the U of A's Calgary Centre. For complete coverage of this panel, see story on page 11. ■

CAFA announced 2011 awards deadline

The Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations has announced the deadlines for its two 2011 Distinguished awards. Submissions for the 2011 CAFA Distinguished Academic Award and the 2011 CAFA Distinguished Academic Early Career Award is April 20. The 2011 CAFA Distinguished Academic Award recognizes an academic staff or group of staff members, who through their research and/or scholarly, creative or professional activities, have created an outstanding contribution to the wider community beyond the university. The 2011 CAFA Distinguished Academic Early Career Award recognizes an academic staff member at an early stage of their career who, though their research and/or scholarly, creative or professional activities, have created an outstanding contribution to the wider community beyond the university. Nomination details and forms are available at www.ualberta.ca/cafa. ■

Making research recognition commonplace the open door

Lorne Babiuk, vice-president (research)

The University of Alberta has undertaken a number of initiatives in order to enhance a culture of recognizing the research excellence of its faculty and improve the quality of the nominations its researchers put forward for major awards.

In late 2010, the President's Research Awards Advisory Committee was struck to identify the range of research awards, both national and international, and their submission deadlines.

Beginning in January 2011, in an effort to help faculty submit the best possible applications, the Office of the Vice-President (Research) created an optional internal review process with a deadline roughly six weeks in advance of the actual award nomination application deadline.

After the internal deadline, applications are provided to members of the University's College of Reviewers, which is made up of faculty members from a large number of faculties. A handful of content and non-content experts from the college are chosen to review each application and submit their comments back to the applicant or nominator.

This balance of expertise is important to ensure the application reaches the widest range of adjudicators possible because, in many cases, members of the college also have experience on various adjudication committees and know what selection committees are looking for, thus improving the applicant's chances of success.

Because we have such a wonderful array of people who have agreed to join the College of Reviewers, it hasn't been a problem finding the appropriate individuals to review each case. The experience we

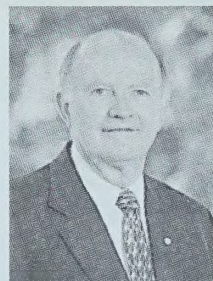
have had to date is that the reviewers are extremely conscientious and diligent, and they have done a great job in providing constructive feedback.

We encourage faculty members to apply for internal and local/regional awards, which form the foundation for national and international awards. As well, awards have additional collateral benefits. For example, when two grant applications are almost equivalent, but there is only money for one, it stands to reason that the researcher who has received recognition and awards from his or her peers has a better chance of getting that grant. Some awards have monetary benefits as well, but the recognition by a researcher's peers is critical.

The importance of awards recognition was on full display during the annual Celebration of Research and Innovation on March 22. This salute to the university's vast scope of achievement in research is another way to create momentum by celebrating the various awards that students, faculty and staff receive.

In the end, ensuring our researchers are extremely competitive in the awards selection process is one of our main objectives. This internal review process has been instituted to ensure that people receive the appropriate recognition for their achievements and contributions, and the objective is to add value to the preparation of nominations through internal review.

The quality of our faculty members is as high or higher than at many other universities, and we are committed to doing all we can to ensure that the quality of their work is recognized by major national and international awards. ■



Lorne Babiuk



PRESIDENT'S SPRING TOWN HALL

Please join President Indira Samarasekera for the annual Spring Town Hall. Following brief remarks, there will be an opportunity for questions and discussion relating to initiatives, events and issues of importance to the university community.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

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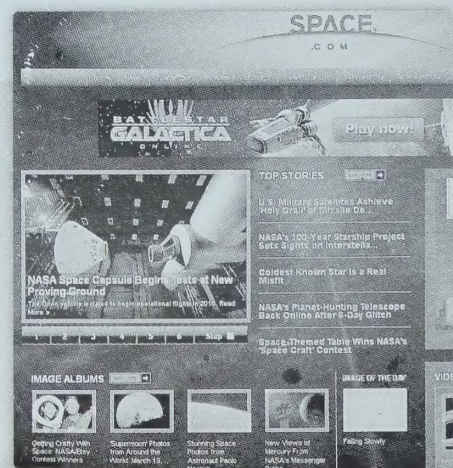


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surf city

The space shuttle Discovery was retired March 10, but not our desire to watch and explore the stars. Space (www.space.com) is the web's No. 1 source for astronomy, space exploration and related technology. From space flight to the quest for other life forms, Space presents the science behind the mysteries, with plenty of fantastic images and video to go along with the information—both detailed and quirky. On one hand, bacteria grown in space are deadlier than those grown on Earth and roses grown in space smell different. On the other hand, astronauts have discovered that you can't burp in zero gravity.



Thinking and learning inside the box

Richard Cairney

It's a familiar sight to engineering students: professor John Nychka strides into his materials engineering class holding a banker's box with a sticker on it that reads: "What's in the Box?"

It could be anything. One day it's a five-pound bag of silly putty. The next it's a torch and bobby pins; the next class it could be 50 feet of rubber hose.

But whatever the contents of the box, one thing is certain: Nychka will create a sense of adventure and tweak his students' curiosity to help them learn about the properties of different materials and how to manipulate them.

"This is pretty much the only

materials course that many engineers ever take," said Nychka, a materials engineering professor. "It's a pretty fundamental thing. They're going to be designing things from different materials, so this is important."

Nychka says he was inspired in part by one of his own undergraduate teachers—who is now a colleague in the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering.

"Suzanne Kresta did that for me," he said. "She made her students really want to learn."

Nychka says he follows a simple formula when it comes to teaching: "You create a room with a VUE," he said, adding that the "V" stands for visual learning, the "U" for unexpected results that expose knowledge

gaps and create curiosity, and the "E" stands for engagement.

This term, Nychka has taken things a step further by giving students their own mystery boxes with which to conduct experiments in the lab portion of their class. Small, tin "What's in the Box?" boxes make up part of the course pack for Materials Engineering 101—a class all engineering students must take regardless of the engineering discipline they specialize in.

"What I've heard from the students is that it makes the labs more fun and that it keeps them engaged. Now, every student has the kit—it's like a mobile lab. They have the instruments to do the experiments and this kit helps them visualize the concepts they're learning." ■

teaching & learning, learning & teaching



John Nychka's "What's in the Box?" boxes are now available to students taking his course.

U of A hosts meeting looking at challenges of an aging population

Michael Davies-Venn

Social scientists from almost every continent came to the University of Alberta recently to develop a plan that will help address some of the pressing social issues faced by the world's aging population.

"We want to foster capacity building and the creation and transfer of knowledge on international issues of population aging, with a focus toward creating a society for all ages," said Norah Keating, U of A ecology professor and organizer of the strategic planning meeting, which ran for three days starting March 30. "It seems to us, the ones who have developed this initiative, that population aging, when it's been highlighted, has been couched in an apocalyptic language of the costs to society."



Norah Keating

"We aim to redress this one-dimensional understanding of aging and its impact on nations, communities and older people."

Deanna Williamson, chair of the U of A Department of Human Ecology, says the aim of the conference aligns with her department's work.

"The research program developed would have important and significant implications for enhancing the well-being of older adults," she said. "This outcome is consistent with the mission of the department,

which is to create a healthy human environment. It is humbling to have some of the world's best gerontology scholars here with us."

The meeting was made possible by a grant obtained by Keating from the Worldwide Universities Network Global Challenge competition

fund. The network is a global alliance of 16 research-intensive universities drawn from the United Kingdom, Europe, North America, China and Australia. Issues surrounding an

aging population are one of the areas where the university has taken a leading role within the organization.

"We are very pleased to have the WUN community on campus," said Carl Amrhein, provost and vice-president (academic), recognizing Keating's co-applicants from other member universities at the opening of the meeting. "International importance on health and welfare, care giving and bringing the world to Edmonton are some of the many things we

talked about as we continue to internationalize this institution in ways that few schools have achieved."

Keating chose the gathering to announce the launch of her Global Social Initiative on Aging, which she described as a high-profile initiative with potential to influence the lives of millions of older adults around the world. This initiative is now part of the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics, which works to enhance

the quality of life and well-being of older people worldwide through its membership and comprises more than 70 countries.

Du Peng, regional chair of the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics for Asia and

Oceania, says the nature of the concerns will differ between developed and developing countries.

"China has the biggest number of older persons in the world, about 170 million. As a developing country, we don't have the full coverage of social security," Peng said.

"In developed countries such as Japan, for example, it's not the same."

Heung Bong Cha, president of the association, agrees, saying developed countries have their own set of age-related problems. In 2001, there were 444,000 people over the age of 85 in Canada; by 2051 that number is expected to rise to almost two million.

"The main issues are longevity and healthy aging, the long-term care of older persons with chronic diseases," says Cha. "Another is social participation and activities in the communities, as well as family relations." ■

"We want to foster capacity building and the creation and transfer of knowledge on international issues of population aging, with a focus toward creating a society for all ages."

Norah Keating

Refurbished computers Ecuador bound

Wanda Vivequin

Efforts by staff in the Department of Computing Science have resulted in 30 refurbished computers being shipped to Ecuador. The computers will accompany Edmonton members of the Canadian Association of Medical Teams Abroad, who have traveled to the country administering medical assistance over the last few years.

Department chair Mike McGregor said a meeting with medical staff at the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital in Edmonton over another project gave rise to the idea of donating unused computers from his department, and it was not long before computing science staff members Charles Jobagy, Rene Leiva and Rich Hughes were hard at work.

McGregor said each of the refurbished computers that had been lying in storage for between three and five years was completely cleaned up and reconfigured into working order. The three men dedicated themselves to the task and, when the time came to load the computers, all boxed up, onto the truck that would take them into the container destined for the hospital, all three were very pleased with the result.



Charles Jobagy loads computers he helped refurbish into a van. The computers are bound for Ecuador.

"This is the first time we have donated computers overseas and I can't think of a better place to benefit from us giving them away," said McGregor. "These three staff certainly went above and beyond the call of duty to make this happen, and it's so wonderful that the donation of computers not being used really will have an unexpected social benefit."

The Canadian Association of Medical Teams Abroad is a group of medical and lay individuals dedicated to helping underprivileged people suffering from orthopedic problems in Ecuador. The U of A computers will travel with the group to a hospital funded through the Tierra Nueva Foundation, a non-profit non-governmental organization based in Ecuador. ■

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Andrea Morehouse has determined that cattle have become a mainstay in the diet of wolves. (Supplied photo)

Wolves do more than snack on cattle

Brian Murphy

In a two-year study that required tracking radio-collared wolves, University of Alberta graduate student Andrea Morehouse confirmed something ranchers had long suspected: their cattle had become a mainstay in the diet of local wolf packs.

"In southwestern Alberta during the summer, when ranchers let their cattle graze on public land—the home territory for local wolf packs—cows became 45 per cent of the summer diet for three wolf packs," said Morehouse. The researchers say summer grazing on public land coincides with the arrival of newborn wolf pups, which puts pressure on wolf packs to bring down large prey.

Morehouse says in the winter the wolves found easy pickings in cattle boneyards, the disposal sites on ranches where cattle killed by injury or sickness are disposed of.

"Often the boneyards were located within a few hundred metres of grazing cattle," said Morehouse. "They became a magnet for wolves, especially in the winter months, when we calculated that 85 per cent of the wolf scavenged-feeding events took place at cattle boneyards."

To perform the study, Morehouse and her research team monitored radio collars on four wolves in three different packs that operated over vast territories in southwestern Alberta. The collars sent out tracking beacons and housed another device that recorded detailed GPS location data.

"We used radio signals to find the general area where the wolves were moving about, and when we got close, we used a handheld device to upload a week's worth of hour-by-hour tracking information," said Morehouse.

On open terrain, the data uploads could be made from as far away as five kilometers from the wolves, but the researchers were not always that lucky.

On one field trip Morehouse remembers a long walk through a densely wooded area to get an upload of the wolf's movements. "We got quite a surprise when we plotted our GPS location on a map and compared it with the spot where the wolves had gathered," said Morehouse. "The trees and vegetation were so thick we didn't realize we were just 70 metres from the wolf pack."

The researchers looked for GPS clusters, the locations on the map where the wolves spent a lot of time, and went to a total of 698 sites where the wolves had gathered. They turned up locations where 50 cows were killed.

Morehouse says the combined effects of summer grazing in the wolf packs' territories and the strong attraction of boneyards for all predatory animals show a need for change.

"Our work shows the need for new management plans in the study area in order to reduce the opportunities for wolves to prey on cattle," said Morehouse. ■

Treatment for depression a long-term solution

Sandra Pysklywyc

Ian Colman, an epidemiologist in the School of Public Health, recently completed a study that suggests the treatment of depression may have long-term benefits.

The data Colman reviewed came from the *National Population Health Survey*, a longitudinal Canadian study that showed depressed adults who use antidepressants are three times less likely to be depressed eight years later, compared to depressed adults who don't use antidepressants.

To date, research into the effects of antidepressant treatments for individuals with major depression has only concentrated on short-term outcomes says Colman.

However, it's important to note that it's unlikely the effects are just the result of ongoing treatment, Colman says. "It's more likely that results from the study speak to the importance of getting evidence-based treatment, drugs or other therapies, in the first place and treatments that ensure that all of your symptoms are resolved."

While proper treatment is vital, Col-

man points to the importance of treatment that continues until an individual's symptoms have completely ceased.

"It's common that depressed individuals will have a partial remission of symptoms, when they feel better but some symptoms remain; those people have poor long-term outcomes," he says.

While depression can be a difficult topic to discuss in everyday conversation, Colman says recent research has shown more than 50 per cent of people who are depressed are not receiving treatment, possibly because they don't recognize symptoms, don't want treat-

ment, or are not getting treatment due to stigma around mental illness.

Colman offers several options in order for treatment to be successful. Psychotherapy and cognitive behavioural therapy, for example, which focus on problem solving and skills building, help the patient deal with stressful situations, and have proved to have long-term beneficial outcomes.

"Evidence suggests that cognitive behavioural therapies are as effective as anti-depressants, and the two treatments together are even more effective," he says. ■

Researcher finds fault with firefighter's gear tests

Michel Proulx

A University of Alberta professor has been developing a model for protective clothing that may make firefighters' jobs safer.

Current testing methods and standards of protective clothing systems for firefighters don't take into account stored thermal energy, which can sometimes lead to second-degree burns, says protective-clothing expert Guowen Song of the Department of Human Ecology.

His research sought to understand the phenomenon, measure it and incorporate it into a standard in order to predict as precisely as possible the performance of a clothing system and give a true textile protective performance, or TPP, value.

protective clothing for firefighters has a minimum TPP value of 35, which means the clothes can protect a person engulfed in a fire for 17.5 seconds. However, if you add the stored thermal energy variable to the equation, that time is reduced to about 12 seconds.

"It significantly changes the results," concludes Song. "The thermal stored energy can release to the human skin even after exposure. That's why people feel like they got burned or injured after the accident or incident. That's why burns sometimes occur later when they rest, take off their clothing and suddenly feel pain. That's the contribution from the thermal stored energy."

Song is working with the American Society for Testing and Materials

“Normally, people using a regular approach to testing the clothing's performance ignore thermal stored energy. They assume they're predicting clothing performance but they're actually not.”

Guowen Song

to incorporate his findings into the voluntary standards established by the society to provide to better and more efficient protective clothing systems for firefighters. ■



Guowen Song, seen here testing a fabric's resistance to fire, has found that stored thermal energy has an impact in protective clothing that isn't reflected in the testing standards.

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The law of stairs: What goes up never stops

Michael Brown

For most people, anything that follows "running stairs" on a ranking of favourite activities would actually be at or near the bottom of the list. In the case of Tim Young, however, the only thing he likes better than his job as a programmer in the Faculty of Law is running stairs.

Young is long-distance stair runner and, by his estimation, is in line to set the world's fastest vertical mile. "The closest record I have been able to find in 3.29 steps per second in setting the record going up the CN tower in 1989. If you work out my cadence, my best is 5.39 steps per second," he says.

This isn't necessarily a talent that Young stumbled upon by accident. The 33-year-old self-taught computer programmer has spent virtually every lunch hour he has ever had during his 10-plus years at the university running anywhere from 11,000 to 15,000 stairs per day. Better said, he runs, typically two stairs at a time, a minimum of 16 laps of the Tory Building (approximately 20 floors when roof, basement and elongated flight distances are factored in) per day.

"I started running stairs for figure-skating training," said Young. "I wanted to jump higher and stairs are excellent for footwork as well, but eventually I figured out this allows me to do whatever I want to do. It is the ultimate method for training."

With dreams of figure skating glory left behind on a stair landing long past, Young now sees stair running as an entry point to just about any distance-related sport.

"I have my eye on biathlon and back-country alpine touring competitively. Those are two sports that I want to start to including in my training," said Young,

who, as part of his stair training, spends a chunk of his day in the university pool. "My philosophy is I just always want to be operating at an Olympic level, not necessarily at the Olympics, but maybe one day."

"I'm pretty sure I'm going to be one of those 85-year-olds who is running death races. I am just going to be ramping it up just as long as I can, and I think I have a lot of years before I see any sort of decline."

Whether the Olympics come or not, Young is quite content to train and continue to ply his trade at the university.

"I like that I have a lot of variety in what I do," said Young. "I like the people I work for and work with, and I enjoy

"My philosophy is I just always want to be operating at an Olympic level, not necessarily at the Olympics, but maybe one day."

Tim Young

being able to make life easy for people.

"You can't beat the atmosphere at the university. I like being around the students, and being in a place surrounded by intellectuals and experts in different fields."



Tim Young figures he is in line to set the world's fastest vertical mile.

Study finds warning labels better than a fat tax

Bev Betkowski

Warning labels on junk food would be more effective than a "fat" tax for deterring overweight people from making unhealthy purchases, a new University of Alberta study has found.

A survey of 364 shoppers in random Alberta grocery stores showed that while price alone wouldn't deter people from reaching for junk food, shoppers—including those with the heaviest body mass index—did heed a label that warned of high fat content and included a note that the item was being taxed because of it.

The study asked shoppers to choose between high-fat and healthier snacks in the 50-cent to \$2 range. Some of the items came with a hypothetical warning label. The responses were analyzed and showed three different groups of consumers. While two of the groups were already sensitive to either price or less healthy snacks and tended to avoid them, one of the groups—the one with the highest body weight—seemed deterred only by the warning label.

"The consumers who heeded the

label didn't care about the price but responded to the warning and were much less likely to buy the snack," said Sean Cash, an adjunct professor of rural economy at the U of A, who led the study, along with professor Vic Adamowicz and graduate student Ryan Lacanilao.

The researchers theorize that warning labels pack a bigger behavioural punch because they are far more noticeable than the price differences that would result from snack taxes. Therefore, including warning labels on unhealthy foods would be a better option than a fat tax, which has already been implemented in varying degrees in the United States and is being considered for Canada.

"Based on the reaction of shoppers, a tax seems to be the least effective for the people you want to reach most," Cash noted. "If you want to use the tax to change the habits of consumers, it won't be effective. A nickel here and there in tax isn't going to change behaviour in a big way."

Instead, people will likely get around the tax by buying in bulk to save money, he added. "For instance, buying less

soda pop is a rational response to a tax, but so is buying cheaper soda. A perverse outcome can actually happen."

The study was published in the latest edition of *The Journal of Consumer Affairs*, and was funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Canada Foundation for Innovation and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.



Warning labels on junk food may be a better deterrent than a fat tax.

True North colours



Garrett Epp, professor in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies, wears his Maple Leaf (Canada) tartan kilt April 6 along with green and gold socks to celebrate Tartan Day. The distinctive green-and-red pattern—inspired by the shifting hues of autumn leaves—was designed along with the Canadian flag in 1964, but not officially adopted as the Canadian tartan until last month.

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U of A gamers take to the red carpet

Scott Rollans

The University of Alberta's Computing Science Centre isn't always a focal point for red-carpet glamour and excitement. But local paparazzi might want to circle April 20 on their calendars—the date of this year's CMPUT 250 Award Ceremony.

For the last several years, the computers and games course has celebrated the end of term with a fun, Oscars-style event, showcasing the computer game projects created by student teams during the year.

"We have five categories of awards, such as excellence in writing and dialogue, excellence in art, and so on," explains Vadim Bulitko, now wrapping up his second year teaching the course. "And the very last award is for the best game overall—the game of the year. In every category we present the nominees, and for every nomination we show a little clip from the game. And then we say, 'And the winner is...'"

For students like Derek Dowling and his team, who are currently putting the final touches on their own game, the ceremony marks the end of a hectic, stressful journey. "It's just like we were told," laughs Dowling. "You think you have a lot of time, but then the deadline starts coming up and all of a sudden you're spending huge amounts of time getting it ready. "But it's fun," Dowling is quick to add. "We're building a video game, so you can't really complain."

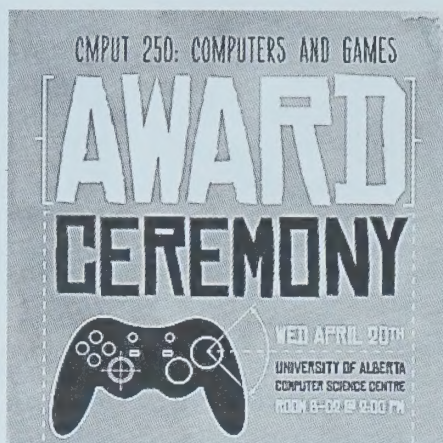
Dowling, a second-year computing

science student, says he has particularly enjoyed working with teammates from other disciplines and faculties. "As a guy who's not very artistic, it was nice. We have two art guys on our team, and some writers—things that I'm not necessarily good at. I was excited to make a better-rounded project, with a bunch of people who aren't necessarily computing science students.

"Including me, we have six guys on our team. Two computing science students, one industrial design student, one fine arts student and two psychology students."

The psychological influence shines through in Dowling's description of the team's project. "Our game is called *Deserted*. It's a story about a young man named Sam Foster. The setting is kind of Western-themed, late-1800s. His father abandons him at a young age. So it's Sam's goal to figure out why his father left him—to clear up the story and make peace with his father."

The eight teams—four from each term—construct their projects using the game engine from *Neverwinter Nights*, a classic title from Edmonton-based gaming company BioWare. Personnel from the company also contribute directly to the course.



"They come in three times during the term," Bulitko explains. "They do one lecture on level design, using examples from their commercial games. Then, when the students have their games almost ready, they come in to watch their trailers, listen to their pitches, and give them some feedback. And then they come in at the very end, for an hour-and-a-half question-and-answer session, where any student can ask them any question."

The BioWare connection is a key part of the course's success, says Bulitko. "BioWare is one of the top game companies in the world, especially in their area, which is role-playing games—RPGs. Receiving feedback on the games from somebody at such a high level, who's so recognized in the industry, is very helpful to the students."

The CMPUT 250 Award Ceremony takes place at 2 p.m. April 20, in CSC B-02. ■

U of A cracks top 100 in world IT and engineering-specific rank

Michael Brown

The University of Alberta has landed itself in the top 100 in all five of the QS World University Rankings' first-ever ranking of individual technical subjects.

These individual information technology and engineering ranks were divided along natural groupings, which included mechanical, aeronautical and manufacturing,

civil and structural engineering, computer science and information systems, chemical engineering and electrical engineering.

To date, no specific rank has been given to the institutions ranked between 51 and 100.

Within each individual indicator, science and information systems at the U of A scored high marks for employer reputation and citations, while academic reputation for the U of A's civil engineering program edged out the U of A's academic reputation for work done in chemical engineering.

"These rankings are a strong indication that we are making

an impact in the global academic community," said President Indira Samarasekera. "Although this is only one component of several benchmarks that we use to measure our progress, I am encouraged to see that our excellence in com-

puter science and information systems; civil and structural engineering, chemical engineering, electrical engineering and mechanical, aeronautical and manufacturing are receiving

international attention."

According to QS World University Rankings officials, the ranking by subject responds to a need for comparative data that looks at specific areas of expertise in the institutions. As its centrepiece, the ranking uses academic reputation, which is gathered thanks to a short survey of more than 15,000 academics. Relevant employers are also polled about their recruitment tendencies. The ranking also factors in citations per paper.

In 2010, the overall QS World University Ranking had the U of A ranked 78th in the world, with a ranking of 74th in the category of engineering and IT. ■

"These rankings are a strong indication that we are making an impact in the global academic community."

Indira Samarasekera

Public Presentation by

Dr. Marianne Douglas,
director of the

Canadian Circumpolar Institute
University of Alberta

As part of the process of her review as Director of the Canadian Circumpolar Institute, Marianne Douglas will be making a public presentation on:

Wednesday, April 20
at 9 a.m.

in
2-1 University Hall
(Council Chambers)

The format for the meeting will include a presentation by Dr. Douglas followed by a question and answer session moderated by Associate Vice-President (Research) George Pavlich. The meeting will conclude by 10:30 a.m.

One element of the CCI Director review process is to invite feedback from the University community, and anyone wishing to comment on Dr. Douglas's presentation or other aspects of her work as Director is invited to contact Katharine Moore, Review Committee Secretary, by email at katharine.moore@ualberta.ca or by phone at 780-492-0868.

Comments should be received by Wednesday, April 27 at 4:30 p.m.

The records that arise from this review will be managed in accordance with the provisions of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

CCI 50
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Musculoskeletal research the Woodhouse way

Laurie Wang

She's a leading research clinician, she's originally from Montreal, and she cheers for the—brace yourself—the Toronto Maple Leafs. Meet Linda Woodhouse, the new Dr. David Magee Endowed Chair in Musculoskeletal Research.

Last summer, the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine announced the creation of its first endowed research chair, named after one of the world's foremost physical therapists: the Dr. David Magee Endowed Chair in Musculoskeletal Research. Harold and Cathy Roozen donated \$1.5 million to establish the chair in the name of the internationally recognized physical therapist, author, associate dean and professor in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine.

The research chair will maximize the physical therapy care of patients. It is aimed at finding improved methods of clinical assessment for arthritis, injury prevention and treatments for sports injuries and low-back pain. It is for clinical research, impacting patients directly.

This March, the faculty announced the appointment of its inaugural chair holder, Linda Woodhouse, a leading research-clinician from the School of Rehabilitation Medicine at McMaster University. Woodhouse has made significant contributions to the development and evaluation of models

for inter-professional care for patients accessing hip and knee surgery. She has also developed innovative clinical programs for patients with osteoarthritis and osteoporosis and for cancer survivors who receive conservative treatments in the community. She will be joining the faculty on June 1.

"The Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine is unique in Canada in that it is the only free-standing faculty.



Linda Woodhouse

My impression is that the faculty is composed of extremely dedicated individuals who are forward thinking and extremely entrepreneurial in their approach to research, education and clinical practice," said Woodhouse.

"I think we have come a long way in terms of understanding the deleterious effects of rest

and immobility on tissue repair. This has resulted in a focus on maintaining mobility and active approaches to manage musculoskeletal disorders. I think we need more dose-response studies to optimize treatment regimens," she said. "I also see the future as focusing on translational research that bridges research from bench to bedside to the community. Translational research really needs to occur in both directions simultaneously—translating basic science into the clinic and vice versa."

Woodhouse says her impression of Alberta's research culture is that there are pockets of fantastic work going on across the province—from basic

science through to the application of findings in clinical practice—but she adds she would like to see clinical findings drive bench research.

"Some of the challenges include the current economic times, which have resulted in health-care cutbacks, widespread mergers of health-care organizations across Alberta, and recently, some leadership changes," she said. "With an aging and growing population, the demands on the health-care system to better manage musculoskeletal disease are increasing. This is particularly true as the generation of baby boomers, who demand quick access to high quality service, are reaching their osteoarthritic years.

"The escalation in demand for musculoskeletal service, coupled with increased rates of obesity that are associated with development of musculoskeletal diseases, means that we must be innovative in our approaches to provide effective care." ■

"My impression is that the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine is composed of extremely dedicated individuals who are forward thinking and extremely entrepreneurial in their approach to research, education and clinical practice."

Linda Woodhouse

Students of dental hygiene attend to long-term care needs

Quinn Phillips

For the first time, third-year dental-hygiene students are going to long-term care facilities to inspect the teeth of residents who don't often receive oral health treatment.

In an effort to expand the experiences of students, Sharon Compton and Sandy Cobban, professors in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, have developed a new practicum that sends third-year dental hygiene students to long-term care facilities in Edmonton—Jasper Place Continuing Care Centre and St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital—every Tuesday to do oral assessments on the residents.

"If the students aren't exposed to this kind of work, I would propose they'd be much less likely to take it upon themselves to get involved in this kind of care," said Compton. "We give our students a tonne of experience in the regular practice model; however, there are other areas where they could enhance their dental hygiene practice."

"One of those areas is in long-term care facilities." Many residents in long-term care facilities have early dementia and, thus, can often have a hard time communicating the pain in their mouth, which can cause problems, including not eating properly. The poor oral health of these residents can lead to a higher risk of many problems, including pneumonia or heart disease.

"In being able to perform a routine assessment, we're able to identify problems either before they get to the point that the person is in pain, or identify the people who are in pain who haven't been assessed yet," said Compton.

For logistical reasons students cannot do treatment at the facilities, but students can still learn.

"What we are hoping to do is to help them negotiate, facilitate and advocate for the person to get the care done," said Compton.

Forty-seven students are in the program and eight students are at the facilities every Tuesday through the semester. Kim Schowler is one of those students and says she has enjoyed the opportunity.

"It's nice to come into long-term care facilities and even talk to patients who maybe have dementia and can no longer do the oral health care themselves," said Schowler. "Even just educating the caregivers here and letting them know how they can help the residents is great."

The hope is that this practicum will continue past this first year and will expand to a number of continuing care facilities in Edmonton. "I've had five facilities already indicate that they would like dental hygiene students to come and provide oral health assessments and education." ■

Dean says arts researchers have risen to global challenges

Michael Davies-Venn

The role of arts researchers in tackling the global challenges surrounding water, energy and food took centre stage during the Faculty of Arts Annual Celebration of Research and Creative Work March 28.

"We do research that is incredibly relevant, even at its most esoteric," said Lesley Cormack, dean of the Faculty of Arts, to the crowd of arts researchers gathered at the Faculty Club. "We don't have to simply do practical applications to be seen to be doing research that matters to the world today."

"There's exciting research going on in the faculty, and I do think that the work we do can transform the society that we live in."

The world's emerging focus on water, energy and food was also the focus of a recent World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, which was attended by U of A President Indira Samarasekera. Upon her return, Samarasekera shared her thoughts

about the role the university could play in resolving these issues with Cormack and other deans.

"By challenging us to think about how we look at those three themes, the president showed us that the research we do is as important as is done in other areas, and is of particular interest to the world," said Cormack.

Using an example of recent events where arts researchers were called upon to provide vital practical impact on the world, Cormack cited the cholera outbreak in Haiti in 2010. "The reason it was difficult to cure cholera in Haiti was not because we don't know how to cure cholera; it's because civil society had broken down. It was a problem for social scientists as much as it was for medical researchers."

The celebration also provided an opportunity to learn about research across the faculty.

John-Paul Himka, history professor and winner of the 2011 J. Gordin Kaplan Award for Excellence in Research, spoke on his current research, which he says helps dispel historical

Ukrainian nationalist myths.

"One of the areas of contention is the interpretation of the great famine that racked Ukraine in 1932–33," he said. "In the mythicized version, Stalin unleashed the famine deliberately in order to kill Ukrainians en masse and, thus, prevent them from achieving their aspirations to establish a national state," Himka said. "I, however, point out that the pre-condition for the famine was the reckless collectivization drive, which almost destroyed Soviet agriculture as a whole."

Himka stressed that, although his work is historical, it has the potential to help reconcile many issues Ukraine faces today.

"During the last Ukraine elec-

tions, in one region where this myth is very popular, the neo-fascist party received 30 per cent of the vote. Without addressing these issues, Ukraine's chances of joining the European Union will be less if it is branded as a neo-fascist country that hasn't come to terms with its past in the Second World War."

André Plourde, associate dean (research) in Faculty of Arts, says the celebration provides an opportunity to learn about research and creative activities across the faculty.

"This celebration gives an incredible representation of work done in the faculty and the breadth and relevance of the research and creative activity in the faculty on these themes." ■

“There’s exciting research going on in the faculty, and I do think that the work we do can transform the society that we live in.”

Leslie Cormack

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news [shorts]

folio presents a sample of some of the research stories that recently appeared on ExpressNews, the U of A's online news source, and other campus news sources. To read more, go to www.expressnews.ualberta.ca.

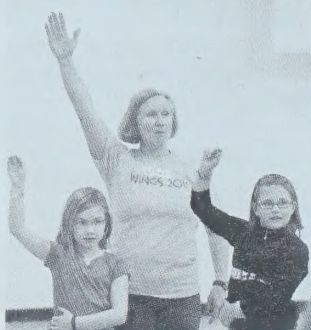
Girls get into healthy moving at physical literacy camp

A spring-break camp has taken on a whole new meaning this week for girls taking part in the pilot WINGS program at the Tri-Leisure Centre in Spruce Grove.

The program, which is named to represent Water, Ice, Nature, Ground, Air, Snow, is a physical literacy camp for young female athletes aged eight to 10 and is based on the Canadian Sport for Life initiative, which provides age-appropriate guidelines for involvement in physical activity and sport.

Developed by Vicki Harber, a researcher in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, the camp aims to challenge girls' perception of sport and create opportunities for them to understand the way they move and why it's important to move properly.

The camp is what Harber calls the "translation piece" from her recent McCalla Professorship, a university award that aims to provide faculty members with an opportunity to implement strategies integrating their research and teaching.



Vicki Harber and two WINGS participants.

Jerry Friesen resigns as Golden Bears football coach

After 10 seasons patrolling the sidelines as head coach of the U of A Golden Bears Football Program, Jerry Friesen announced his resignation, effective March 31, in order to pursue other opportunities.

Friesen was named head coach of the football program in 2001 and amassed a career conference record of 36-40, along with four playoff wins. In 2004 and 2005 he guided the Evergreen and Gold to back-to-back 7-1 seasons and two straight Canada West championship games.

"Golden Bears and Pandas Athletics, and the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, would like to thank Jerry for his hard work, dedication and the passion he brought to Golden Bears Football during his time as head coach," said Vang Ioannides, acting director of athletics. "We wish him nothing but the best for the future."

St. Joseph's College president announced

The board of governors of St. Joseph's College is pleased to announce the appointment of Rev. Terence Kersch as president, effective July 1. Kersch replaces Rev. Timothy Scott, who was elected last summer to the General Council of the Basilian Fathers.

Kersch holds a master's degree in divinity from the University of St. Michael's College and a doctorate in political science from the University of British Columbia. He comes to the U of A from Toronto with significant experience in scholarship, administration and leadership in the Basilian Fathers.

PhD student wins coveted women-in-engineering prize

A U of A PhD student has emerged as role model for women in engineering after joining the illustrious list of Canadian Engineering Foundation scholarship recipients.

Jennifer Nafziger, water-resource grad student in the Faculty of Engineering, has been named the 2011 Claudette MacKay-Lassonde Scholarship winner.

This prestigious \$15,000 scholarship is awarded annually to the most promising woman in a graduate engineering program at the PhD level in Canada.

"My extra-curricular activities have shaped who I am today and have made me a strong role model by demonstrating my knowledge, passion and commitment to community," says Nafziger, who focuses her research on developing computer models of river ice jams. "My goal is to inspire others to follow their scientific interests while dispelling myths about my profession. Engineering is cool, engineering means solving interesting and important problems, and it's a job for both women and men."

An evening of hope for Japan after the destruction

In an effort to keep the world's focus on Japan in the wake of the tsunami that devastated the island nation last month, U of A members of the Japan Association of Graduate Students at Alberta are holding a memorial event April 11.

The event, Evening of Hope for Japan, will bring the acting consul-general of Japan in Calgary, Shinichiro Hayashi, to the U of A to give an update on the aftermath. Reg Eadie, U of A chemical and materials engineering professor, will also be on hand to lecture on nuclear energy and accidents. The night will also feature a performance with a taiko, a traditional Japanese performance drum, as well as a silent auction. All proceeds from the event will go to the Red Cross for relief efforts in Japan. The event begins at 5:30 p.m. at the TELUS Centre A. Admission is \$5. ■

Design course balloons into something special

Ryan Heise

Brendan Smith, Jed Lim and Kevin Shikaze watch as the culmination of their four years of engineering—and in some ways their undergraduate degrees—drifts through the U of A Butterdome.

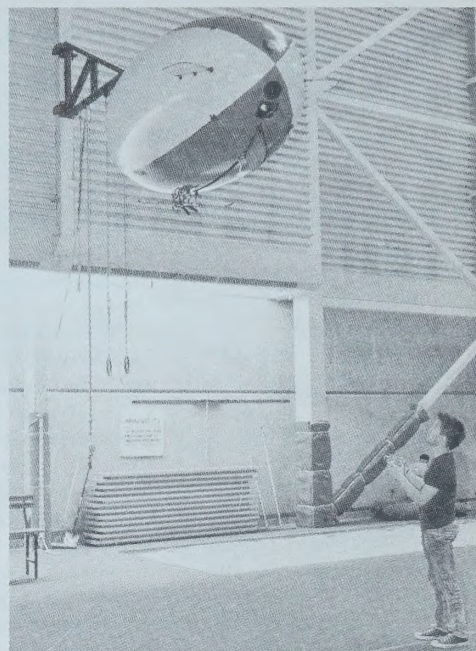
After countless hours working on their capstone design project, the electrical engineering students are as silent as their blimp, watching for any signs of problems or malfunctions, cautiously making sure it stays on course, and being relieved that their first real test flight is going well.

"This is literally the first 30 seconds of testing," Smith said, not taking his eyes off the blimp. "This is the first opportunity to fly it in a big space."

Capstone projects are created to allow undergraduate engineering students to apply their classroom knowledge in practical ways, challenge students to create something that goes beyond textbooks and lectures. The goal of the trio's project was to create a vehicle that can remotely or autonomously survey large indoor areas such as a warehouse or convention floor. For the blimp project, Smith developed the control software, while Lim and Shikaze worked on the electrical and mechanical systems.

For students in the course, this lift off marks the end of late nights in labs applying their knowledge and solving engineering problems during their capstone design courses.

The blimp design team's efforts are paying off and the students are left with time to tweak their final design and polish their presentation. Others are still putting the final touches on their projects. On April 9 and 10 students will present their projects to panels of judges from industry and academia, and have the projects graded.



Jed Lim prepares his capstone project, a remote-controlled and autonomous blimp, for its first test flight.

Based on the time students put into the capstones, their projects are a serious matter.

"It was basically a full-time job. In fact, I wouldn't be surprised if we put in more hours than a full-time job," Smith said.

Smith knows all too well the toll late nights and unforeseen problems can have on students but says the end result, especially after four years of engineering education, is worth it.

"Of course it's stressful, but it's very interesting at the same time," Smith said. "I don't think you could have the degree without these design projects. It's so useful to be able to do real design. Solving problem sets is one thing. Spending late nights in the lab solving real problems is another." ■

Museums and Collections celebrates volunteers and staff

Jennifer Kuchta

The TELUS Centre atrium took on a distinctly carnivalesque feel on March 23 as more than 150 people gathered to celebrate all things museums on campus. This was the eighth annual University of Alberta Museums Celebration and Awards Ceremony, recognizing volunteer and staff contributions to the 28 museum collections on campus.

Volunteers contributions to the U of A Museums enables the community, both on campus and beyond, to learn about the natural and cultural heritage preserved by the U of A Museums.

The 2011 Volunteers of the Year included Tristan Ellenberger, a graduate

student from the Department of History and Classics, and Allison Brett, an undergraduate student from the Department of Human Ecology. Ellenberger was recognized for his ongoing service to the W.G. Hardy Collection of Ancient Near Eastern and Classical Antiquities. Brett was acknowledged for her dedication to the Clothing and Textiles Collection.

New to the awards ceremony this year was the introduction of a Curator Hall of Fame, honouring long-serving curators of the U of A Museums. Says Chancellor Linda Hughes, "all of these former curators have truly gone above-and-beyond to make their respective collections into lasting legacies for future generations of students and researchers

at the University of Alberta."

This year's inductees include; husband-and-wife research team professors emeriti Ruth Gruhn and the late Alan Bryan, for their work in the Department of Anthropology with the Bryan/Gruhn Archaeology and Bryan/Gruhn Ethnographic Collections; professor emeritus Ronald Burwash, for his work with the Petrology Collection in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences; professor Anne Lambert, founder of the Clothing and Textiles Collection, in the Department of Human Ecology; and professor emeritus Mark Wilson, from the Department of Biological Sciences, for his work with the Laboratory for Vertebrate Paleontology. ■

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Understanding the potential catastrophic cost of chronic illness

Michael Ulrich

Chronic diseases are a growing epidemic, and there have been repeated calls for intersectoral and multilevel action involving academia, governments, civil society and the financial sector worldwide to generate innovative solutions.

On March 24, the University of Alberta's School of Public Health brought together a group of leading economists, development bankers and health policy-makers for a panel presentation at the U of A's Calgary Centre. The group focused on the economic risk of chronic disease and the implications this emerging crisis has for every global community.



Sylvie Stachenko

"The need is for champions across all sectors," said Sylvie Stachenko, dean of the School of Public Health, who chaired the discussion and was instrumental in bringing together the influential panelists.

Among those who spoke was André Corriveau, chief medical officer of health for Alberta Health and Wellness. Corriveau highlighted the need in Alberta for education to play a primary role in addressing the increasing number of people at risk for chronic disease. He also mentioned that technology will need to advance in order to meet the growing demand for care.

Jane Billings, senior assistant deputy minister with the Public Health Agency of Canada, provided a national perspective on the

mounting chronic disease epidemic. "Four out of five Canadians currently have a risk factor for chronic disease," said Billings, adding that "societal changes are responsible."

Billings also highlighted the need for improved education and touched on several prevention campaigns that are working well across the country, including a ban on junk food in Ontario schools and Manitoba's "in motion" campaign, which encourages residents to make physical activity a part of their daily lives.

Economist Rachel Nugent, deputy director of global health for the Center for Global Development, delivered an overview of the main challenge facing those trying to fight the rise of chronic diseases worldwide: a lack of funding. Nugent believes there is a tremendous need for the financial community to join arms with health-care providers to tackle chronic diseases, but that will only become possible if the two

sides begin working together.

The panel presentation served as an excellent lead-in on the eve of the 2011 Inter-American Development Bank Annual Meetings, also held in Calgary. The discussion was a stepping stone to the upcoming UN Summit on Non-Communicable Diseases, which will be held in New York in September 2011.

The goal of the summit—at which the School of Public Health will be represented—is to develop a global strategy to address the four most prominent non-communicable diseases: cancers, cardiovascular diseases, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes.

The School of Public Health is committed to meet the growing demand for excellent and relevant interdisciplinary research that creates links between new knowledge and public health policy in order to positively impact the global fight against chronic diseases, said Stachenko. ■

talks & events

Talks & Events listings do not accept submissions via fax, mail, email or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in folio and on Express News at: www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/events/submit.cfm. A more comprehensive list of events is available online at www.events.ualberta.ca. Deadline: noon one week prior to publication. Entries will be edited for style and length.

Until June 24

The Last Best West: Glimpses of the Prairie Provinces from the Golden Age of Postcards. This exhibition of postcards is from the settlement and urbanization of the Canadian Northwest. The Peel's Prairie Provinces postcard collection contains thousands of fascinating and informative images, including personalized views of first houses, farms and family groups, as well as important events, disasters and buildings. Admission is free. Exhibition catalogues are available for \$25. Noon–4:30 p.m. Lower level, South Rutherford Library.

Until April 28

Corpus II: An Exhibition of Art Exploring the Human Body. This exhibit by 2010/2011 Life Drawing Session participants presents a diverse range of drawings, paintings, mixed media pieces and more. These non-instructional sessions are an opportunity for students and staff from all areas of the Department of Art and Design to meet and work from a live model. South Foyer Rutherford Library.

April 8

On Respecting Persons in End-of-Life Care. The objectives of this session is to review the ethical principles of respect for persons and respect for autonomy, discuss the ethical and legislative foundations for substitute decision-making and identify strategies for optimizing decision-making for adults at various stages of decline. Noon–12:45 p.m. 112.13WMC University of Alberta Hospital (Walter C. Mackenzie Health Sciences Centre).

History & Classics LH Thomas Distinguished Lecture Series: "The Letter of Philip to the Athenians." Jeremy Trevett, Department of History at York University, will give a talk entitled, "The Letter of Philip to the Athenians," where he will examine the letter, purportedly from the Macedonian king Philip II to the Athenians, that is preserved among the speeches of Demosthenes as Dem. 12. It explores the letter's authenticity, its date, its relationship to Dem. 11 "Response to the Letter of Philip" and the rhetorical strategies employed in it. 4–5:30 p.m. 1-6 Alberta School of Business.

April 11

Getting Back to Basics: Recommendations for U.S. Immigration Reform in the Modern Economy. Patrick Forrest, U.S. Department of Homeland Security and George Washington University Law School, will address the consequences of the American immigration system, not the cause of the failures, and recommends reforms to the U.S. immigration that meet market needs and targets the issues resulting in the current broken immigration system. Noon. 150 TELUS Centre.

Inaugural Professorial Lectures. Adrian Wagg, professor in the Department of Medicine, will give a talk entitled, "All that Glisters: A Journey into the (Relatively) Unknown World of Wee." Michael Hendzel, professor in the Department of Oncology, will give a talk entitled, "The Cell Nucleus: Still a Black Box." 5–7 p.m. Allard Family Lecture Theatre Katz Group Centre for Pharmacy and Health Research.

April 11–14

EH Boomer Memorial Invited Lecturer. Mark Wightman, professor of chemistry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will give four lecture presentations entitled "Electrochemical Detection of Neurotransmitters: A Historical Perspective." 4–5 p.m. 243 CAB 243 (April 11 & 14), 2022 Dentistry/Pharmacy (April 12 & 13).

April 12

Public Health Colloquium Series. Our colloquium series provides an opportunity for participants to learn from faculty, post-doctoral fellows and PhD students who share their current research. Anita Kozyskyj will present: "Synergy in Microbiota Research." Noon, 12:50 p.m. Room 3-06 University Terrace.

Turbulence and Internal Waves at Rough Bottom Topography.

Sutanus Sarkar, professor in the Sutanus Sarkar mechanical and aerospace department at the University of California, San Diego, will be on hand to talk about how localized sites of rough topography are thought to play a critical role in accomplishing mixing in the stratified rotating ocean. Direct and large eddy simulations that resolve turbulence constitute a powerful tool to characterize, understand and parameterize mixing processes whose genesis is at boundaries. 2–3 p.m. 2-020 Natural Resources Engineering Facility.

Diversity and the Workplace.

Candy Khan, City of Edmonton; Darcy Yamada, Ernst and Young Corporate Finance; and Mary Banda, Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton, will be on hand to

discuss defining diversity, especially in workplace environments, and the specific challenges and possibilities with that goal in mind. 3:30–5 p.m. 7-152 Education Centre North.

April 13

Last Day of Classes. Come and celebrate the last day of classes. Enjoy free goodies (cookies and punch). 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. HUB International.

Talk by Pulitzer Prize winner Stacy Schiff. Schiff will talk about her No. 1 bestseller and New York Times Best Book of 2010, "Cleopatra: A Life." 6:30 p.m. Auditorium Pavillon McMahon, Campus Saint-Jean.

April 18

Canadian Institutes of Health Research – Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis. CIHR integrates research

through an interdisciplinary structure made up of 13 virtual institutes, each led by a scientific director who is in turn aided by a scientific advisory board. Come learn about the IMHA and where it is headed. 10–11 a.m. 1-040 Li Ka Shing Centre for Health Research Innovation.

Large-Scale Phenotype-Driven Mutagenesis Screen for New Mouse Models of Human Bone Disease. Jane Aubin, professor in the Department of Molecular Genetics at the University of Toronto, and researcher in the Centre for Modeling Human Disease, will be on hand to give this talk. 2–3 p.m. 1-040 Li Ka Shing Centre for Health Research Innovation.

April 23

Easter Egg Hunt. RSVP online or call 780-492-6530. 12:45 p.m. Arts and Convocation Hall. www.ualberta.ca/alumni.

Ukrainian pysanky



Natalie Kononenko, professor of Ukrainian folklore, lends a hand at The Kule Centre for Ukrainian and Canadian Folklore's annual Easter egg decorating workshop March 31.

laurels

Norbert Morgenstern, Distinguished University Professor (emeritus), received the 2011 H. Bolton Seed Medal from the American Society of Civil Engineers March 13. The medal was awarded for exceptional contributions and outstanding productivity in education, research and consulting that have profoundly enhanced engineering practice in slope stability and dam design. On the occasion, Morgenstern delivered the 2011 H. Bolton Seed Lecture on the theme of "Risk and Reward: Geotechnical Engineering and the Alberta Oilsands."

Florence Myrick, professor in the Faculty of Nursing, has been selected as the 2011 Pat Griffin Nursing Education Research Scholar by the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing.

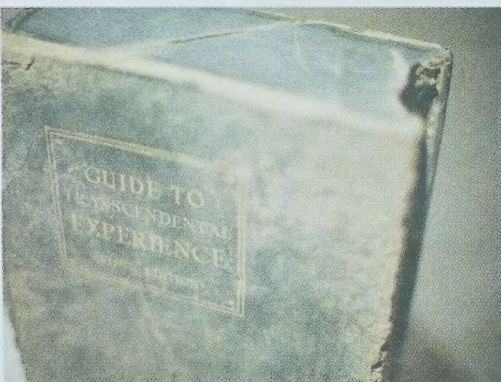
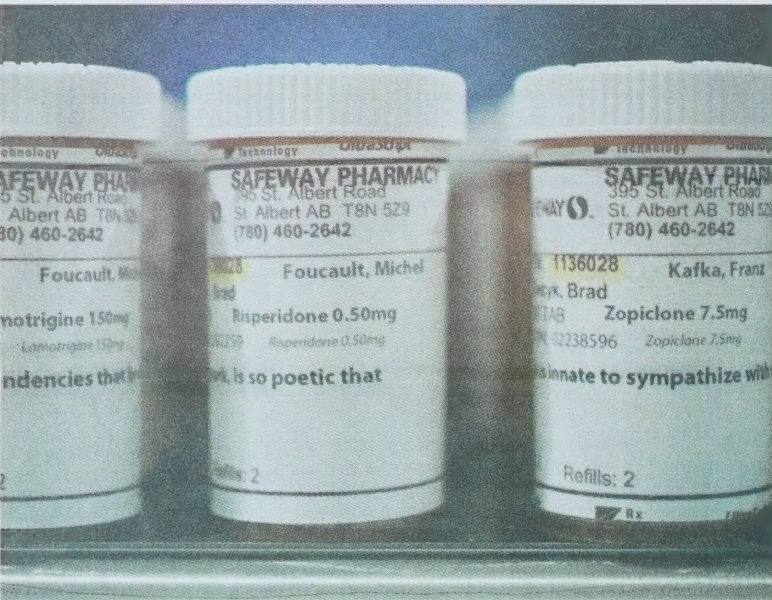
Jonathan Martin, professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, has received the Fred Beamish Award from the Canadian Society for Chemistry for innovation in research in

analytical chemistry.

Fred West, professor in the Department of Chemistry, has won the Alfred Bader Award from the Canadian Society for Chemistry, in recognition of excellence in research in organic chemistry.

Chris Le, professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, has received the Maxxam Award from the Canadian Society for Chemistry, and Environment Division Research and Development Award from the Chemical Institute of Canada, for his distinguished contributions to the field of environmental chemistry.

Sean Caulfield, professor in the Department of Art and Design, has been appointed to the title of Centennial Professor for a period of seven years, effective July 1. The title of Centennial Professor, one of the university's highest honours, is in recognition of the individual's outstanding record of creative research, teaching and service.



From Soul to Seawater

From Soul to Seawater is the title of this year's Department of Art and Design BFA graduating exhibition. The show features the work of 21 talented young artists who have completed their bachelor of fine arts in painting, sculpture, printmaking, drawing and intermedia. The exhibition is presented in the Fine Arts Building Gallery from April 5 to 16. The gallery is open 10 a.m.–5 p.m. from Tuesday to Friday and 2 p.m.–5 p.m. on Saturdays.

Madonna Mikhail, *Overload*, 2011 (detail), Plaster and Pigment (top)
 Brad Necyk, *Contemplations on Mythology* (detail), 2010
 Mixed Media (centre left)
 Madonna Mikhail, *Threaded Generations*, 2011, Fabric, Sequins, Beads
 (centre right)
 Jennifer Konanz, *Guide to Transcendental Experience*, 2010, Concrete,
 Digital Output on Paper (bottom left)